

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
December 21, 2005
Conference Call

Members Present: Helen Jones, President
Lee Otto
David Graham
Jack Corson
Gene Hardy
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agric

Members Absent: Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Jim Mickelson
Emily Horton
David Largent
Leif Udem
Ben Way, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

WDA Staff Present: Carole Sumner, Recording Secretary

The meeting was opened at 8:05 a.m. by Helen Jones.

List of Legislators for contact was discussed. Decided that a personal visit or phone call would be a better way to contact Legislators than sending an e-mail.

John gave the Board an update on the latest information on Roy Reichenbach and the proposed procedures he will be enduring. Helen let the Board know that if they wanted to send any thing to Roy, they should forward it to the Cheyenne Office and staff would forward to Roy.

Green Mountain was discussed. John informed the Board BLM provided four management plans and the permittees are making headway with their comments.

Equine Center. The City of Douglas and Converse County have agreed to raise \$2 million to cover part of the cost of the Center. Sen. Anderson/Rep. Edwards to decide how to proceed with this effort.

Legislative bills. Most bills are moving through. Have not heard anything on Weed & Pest bill. Indemnity funding Bill needs full support of Ag community; also needed for Weed & Pest bill.

Helen asked for pros and cons on proposed designated and declared list issues and needs information on the Weed & Pest bill from Slade. John discussed with Board history of use of the monies collected by Technical Services pesticide application licensing fees. Helen again said she needed more information on the bill and all agreed they needed to understand it.

Slade is to get this information to the Board.

Livestock Board meeting. John gave briefing of the meeting.

Dates and place of February Ag Board meeting discussed. February 21 afternoon – February 22.

Sage grouse. Helen stated she was a member of the NE Wyoming Sage Grouse Working Group and needs help from the Department with writing a conservation plan. John assured her that Natural Resources, specifically Grant and Justin, would be there to give help and will keep the Board informed on the progress.

Living Legacy Tree Program. Helen said Lyndsay Griffith was working on this. Jim Mickelson has several trees for donation to the State Fair's midway planting project. **Muff needs to get a database established to send letters for donation/commitments.** \$350 for a tree and plaque. Will discuss further at the January Board conference call.

Sweetwater County to close doors on PAB first of year. Lincoln county next.

Predatory Management Bill. Helen asked about this and John gave a brief discussion on what's been happening with this. Gene to make calls to find out who is heading this bill up and to report at the January Conference call. John thought perhaps Rep. Semlek may be carrying it but was not sure. Gene didn't think anything was being done with this by the State Predatory Board.

Department of Agriculture meets with JAC on January 9th sometime in the morning. Helen asked if the Board needed to attend the meeting. John said no but the Board needed to contact members of JAC to support the Department's budget but a list of those on the JAC needs to be sent to the Board in order for them to support Ag as private citizens. **Muff to FAX list to all Board members. Muff to get info on how to register as lobbyist to Board members.** (Helen and Gene have info.) A form is needed to be filled out and sent in with \$5. John said some departments pay this fee but he does not condone using State money. Lee did not have info.

Hugh Duncan Ranch acquisition by the State discussed. Gene attended Glen Rock meeting and said about 100 people were there and supported acquisition. He did not attend Casper

meeting but only about 30 some people attended and they did not support acquisition. John said Natural Resources was put on this to come up with a CRM.

Helen asked if anyone knew anything about the trade between Devil's Canyon and Patrick Rowe (sp). John stated he only knew what was in the papers. Jack Corson gave info on North Albany county plans not to stop.

Prairie Management CRM – Goshen County. Very popular here. Some counties not happy that it isn't moving along faster. Possibly can get money from Slade with unused leafy spurge fund. There's a need to get going on this if they can get the monies from this fund.

Jack Corson asked about the Game & Fish real property discussion during a conference call. Asked if anyone was in on this call. John thinks the call was cancelled.

Carole told all that she had spoken with Jim Mickelson yesterday and he was in the hospital in Fort Collins having had ankle surgery. No other information was known.

Meeting adjourned 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date